

seats of understanding  
15th  
international  
design  
contest  
triestecontemporanea

deadline  
may 12, 2024  
at 11:59 pm, CET

## APPLICATION FORM

The Trieste Contemporanea Committee announces the 15th edition of the International Design Contest Trieste Contemporanea with the aim of showcasing the most original contemporary design offerings from the countries of Central Eastern Europe. The competition is a biennial event established in 1995 by the Italian scholar of aesthetics and design Gillo Dorfles.

### art. 1 – PREMISES

The 15th edition of the contest runs in unison with the EU Slovenia-Italy cross-border project for Nova Gorica and Gorizia, designated European Capital of Culture (ECOC) in 2025. In preparing the ECOC event, organising bodies from the two cities (which form one continuous urban area on the border) declare to “share the same commitment: being the European Capital of Borderless Culture”. So, the competition is an initiative towards the “GO! 2025 – Nova Gorica and Gorizia European Capital of Culture 2025” event, and produced by the Trieste Contemporanea Committee with the support of the Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia. It is carried out under the patronage of the Central European Initiative (which has provided for one of its main prizes since 2006) and the ADI–Associazione per il Disegno Industriale, and with the support and collaboration of the Kathleen Foreman Casali Foundation in Trieste, the KCB–Cultural Centre of Belgrade and the Studio Tommaseo in Trieste.

### art. 2 – THEME

This edition of the competition seeks a potentially iconic item of street furniture that could represent symbolic meanings linked to historical location of Nova Gorica/Gorizia, and the sharing of cultural values. Street furniture is more than just a functional tool, it embodies social values and community action. As such, does it have the potential to also influence and shape those values and action? What can be sustainably transmitted in this location, at this point in time, through urban design to future citizens?

The contestant should design a seating installation (e.g. a bench) with the above concept and sentiments and of course for resting, viewing the panorama and socializing. The designed street furniture must be absorbed into the daily social life of the cities and has to be designed merging functionality, formal simplicity, comfort, durability and minimal maintenance. It should be reproducible in a small series. The object of the study could possibly be placed both in the city of Nova Gorica and in that of Gorizia (at least two places in the two cities have to be foreseen in the project) and embody the ideal union of the two cities during GO! 2025 event, as well as future testimony to this ECoC 2025 and its values.

To support preliminary project studies, two webinars and a study visit to Nova Gorica and Gorizia will be organised for contestants. Dates and details will be provided on the website.

### art. 3 – TERMS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

Participation in the competition is free.

There is no age limit.

Individuals and groups can participate in the competition.

The competition is open to designers born in CEI member states (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Serbia, Slovenia and Ukraine). In view of the enlarged territorial aspects, the 15th edition of the contest has been extended to include designers born in Austria. All group members must be born in the countries listed above.

Groups, group members and individuals can only submit one project.

Submissions must be original and previously unpublished and do not infringe, for any reason, the rights of any third party. Contestants should apply using the online form on the [www.triestecontemporanea.it](http://www.triestecontemporanea.it) website.

The projects must be submitted by May 12, 2024, at 11:59 pm, CET.

All material requested should be written in English and included in the online application.

Applications that are incomplete, late, not submitted online or that do not respect the formats and sizes (specified on the online form) will not be accepted.

### art. 4 – MATERIALS TO SUBMIT

Every participant entering the competition should mandatorily submit the following documents:

- A copy of the Identification Document of the individual candidate/group leader (with place of birth) \_ pdf or jpg file. Groups wishing to participate should fill out the application form with the name of the group leader and list the names, countries and dates of birth of the other group members (if a selected or winning project is by a group and not an individual, copies of IDs of all group members will be requested).

- The project of the original design object conceived for the competition, containing all the information required for its production and its eventual site-location in the two GO! 2025 cities \_ pdf file, max 5 MB.

- An account describing the concept behind the new design object, including a detailed rationale of all design and production choices (together with the explanation of their symbolic roots linked to the history, culture and sentiments of the two GO! 2025 cities) \_ max 2500 characters.

- Candidate's descriptive CV text \_ max 1500 characters.

#### art. 5 – CONFIDENTIALITY AND RIGHTS OF USE

All material submitted will be treated as strictly confidential and under no circumstances consigned to third parties, namely anybody not on the panel of judges, before the close of the competition. The contestants selected shall be bound by the same principles of confidentiality until the official publication of the results by the organising Committee.

The Committee reserves the right to publish details and information of the selected and winning projects in its promotional material and in the final catalogue.

If contestants wish to protect their work by applying for copyright or a patent registration, they may do so before entering their work in the competition.

#### art. 6 – PANEL OF JUDGES

The panel of judges, consisting of international experts and representatives from the Central European Initiative and Trieste Contemporanea, will select a number of best designs and award the contest's prizes.

The panel's decisions shall be final.

The Trieste Contemporanea website will announce the names of the members of the jury by April 15, 2024 and publish their decisions by June 15, 2024.

#### art. 7 – SELECTED PROJECTS AND AWARDS

- The works selected by the jury will be exhibited in Trieste and published in an online catalogue on the Trieste Contemporanea website.

- BEBA PRIZE – for the youngest designer individually participating, among those selected: 1.000 €.

- KATHLEEN FOREMAN CASALI FOUNDATION PRIZE – for the best design from Trieste: 2.000 €

- CEI PRIZE – for the best design from one of the non-EU CEI countries: 3.000 €.

- GILLO DORFLES PRIZE / FIRST PRIZE TRIESTE CONTEMPORANEA – for 15th contest edition best design: 4.000 €.

Also, the winning project will be presented by Trieste Contemporanea to the "GO! 2025" organising bodies: should they decide on its subsequent realization, the winner will be informed of this and the full details of the production and event in due time.

#### art. 8 – PUBLICATION OF THE COMPETITION RESULTS

The competition results will be accessible online on the [www.triestecontemporanea.it](http://www.triestecontemporanea.it) website by June 15, 2024. They will also be announced by the organising Committee through the international media.

#### art. 9 – EVENTUAL PROTOTYPES OF PROJECTS

Should Trieste Contemporanea decide to realize prototypes from the awarded projects, the winners will be informed in due course. These prototypes will remain the property of Trieste Contemporanea.

#### art. 10 – HORS CONCOURS PARTICIPATION

Trieste Contemporanea reserves the right to invite a number of designers to take part hors concours.

#### art. 11 – EXHIBITION OF THE SELECTED AND WINNING PROJECTS

All the selected and winning projects, together with any presented by designers invited hors concours, should be displayed in a final exhibition in Trieste alongside the award ceremony. The Committee reserves the right to exhibit these projects elsewhere in Italy and abroad.

#### art. 12 – AWARDS CEREMONY

The awards ceremony will take place in Trieste by the end of June 2024. The winning designers will be invited to Trieste in order to collect their prize, their travel and accommodation expenses paid for by Trieste Contemporanea.

#### [contest's previous editions](#)

[last update: 17 April 2024]

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